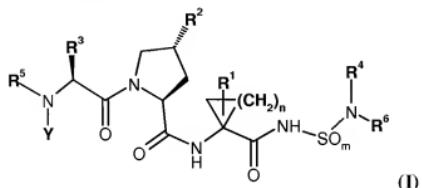


This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula I:



wherein

n is 1 or 2:

m is 1 or 2.

R¹ is H, (C₁₋₆)alkyl, (C₂₋₆)alkenyl, or (C₂₋₆)alkynyl, wherein each of said (C₁₋₆)alkyl, (C₂₋₆)alkenyl, or (C₂₋₆)alkynyl are optionally substituted with from one to three halogen atoms;

R² is selected from -CH₂-R²⁰, -NH-R²⁰, -O-R²⁰, -S-R²⁰, -SO-R²⁰, -SO₂-R²⁰, -CH₂O-R²⁰, and -O-X-R²⁰, wherein

X is (C₂₋₃)alkenyl, (C₂₋₃)alkynyl, or (C₁₋₃)alkyl; and

\mathbf{R}^{20} is $(\text{C}_6 \text{ or } \text{C}_{10})\text{aryl}$ or Het , wherein said $(\text{C}_6 \text{ or } \text{C}_{10})\text{aryl}$ or Het is optionally substituted with \mathbf{R}^{200} ; wherein

\mathbf{R}^{200} is one to four substituents each independently selected from H, halogen, cyano, (C₁₋₆)alkyl, (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl, aryl-(C₁₋₆)alkyl-, aryl, **Het**, oxo, thioxo, -OR²⁰¹, -SR²⁰¹, -SOR²⁰¹, -SO₂R²⁰¹, -N(R²⁰²)R²⁰¹, and -CON(R²⁰²)R²⁰¹; wherein each of said alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl and **Het** is optionally further substituted with \mathbf{R}^{2000} .

R²⁰¹ in each case is independently selected from H, (C₁₋₆)alkyl, (C₂₋₆)alkenyl, aryl, -CO-(C₁₋₆)alkyl and -CO-O-(C₁₋₆)alkyl, wherein each of said alkyl and aryl

is optionally further substituted with \mathbf{R}^{2000} ;

\mathbf{R}^{202} in each case is independently selected from H and (C₁₋₆)alkyl;

\mathbf{R}^{2000} in each case is one to three substituents each independently selected from halogen, aryl, Het, -OR²⁰⁰¹, -SR²⁰⁰¹, -SOR²⁰⁰¹, -SO₂R²⁰⁰¹, cyano, -N(R²⁰⁰²)(R²⁰⁰¹), and R²⁰⁰³, wherein said aryl and Het are optionally substituted with one, two or three substituents each independently selected from (C₁₋₆)alkyl and -O-(C₁₋₆)alkyl;

\mathbf{R}^{2001} in each case is independently selected from aryl, aryl-(C₁₋₆)alkyl-, -C(O)-R²⁰⁰³, -C(O)O-R²⁰⁰³, -CON(R²⁰⁰²)(R²⁰⁰⁴) and R²⁰⁰⁴;

\mathbf{R}^{2002} in each case is independently selected from H and (C₁₋₆)alkyl;

\mathbf{R}^{2003} in each case is independently selected from (C₁₋₈)alkyl, (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl and (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl-(C₁₋₄)alkyl-, wherein said (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl and (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl-(C₁₋₄)alkyl- are each optionally substituted with one to three substituents each independently selected from (C₁₋₃)alkyl; and

\mathbf{R}^{2004} in each case is independently selected from H and R²⁰⁰³;

\mathbf{R}^3 is (C₁₋₈)alkyl, (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl or (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl-(C₁₋₃)alkyl-, each optionally substituted with one or more substituents each independently selected from (C₁₋₆)alkyl, (C₂₋₆)alkenyl, halogen, cyano, -OR³⁰, -SR³⁰, -C(=O)OR³⁰, -C(=O)NH₂, -C(=O)NH(C₁₋₆)alkyl, -C(=O)N((C₁₋₆)alkyl)₂, -NH₂, -NH(C₁₋₆)alkyl, -N((C₁₋₆)alkyl)₂, aryl, and aryl(C₁₋₆)alkyl-, wherein R³⁰ is H, (C₁₋₆)alkyl, aryl, or aryl(C₁₋₆)alkyl-;

\mathbf{R}^5 is selected from **B**, **B**-C(=O)-, **B**-O-C(=O)-, **B**-N(R⁵¹)-C(=O)-; **B**-N(R⁵¹)-C(=S)-, **B**-SO₂- and **B**-N(R⁵¹)-SO₂-; wherein **B** is selected from:

- (C₁₋₁₀)alkyl optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from -COOH, -COO(C₁₋₆)alkyl, -OH, halogen, -OC(=O)(C₁₋₆)alkyl, -O(C₁₋₆)alkyl, -NH₂, -NH(C₁₋₆)alkyl, -N((C₁₋₆)alkyl)₂, -C(=O)NH₂, -C(=O)NH(C₁₋₆)alkyl and -C(=O)N((C₁₋₆)alkyl)₂;
- (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl, or (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl-(C₁₋₄)alkyl-, each optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently

from (C₁₋₆)alkyl, halogen, -COOH, -COO(C₁₋₆)alkyl, -OH, -O(C₁₋₆)alkyl, -NH₂, -NH(C₁₋₆)alkyl, -N((C₁₋₆)alkyl)₂, -C(=O)NH₂, -C(=O)NH(C₁₋₆)alkyl and -C(=O)N((C₁₋₆)alkyl)₂;

(iii) aryl or aryl(C₁₋₆)alkyl-, each optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from (C₁₋₆)alkyl, -OH, -NH₂, -NH(C₁₋₆)alkyl, -N((C₁₋₆)alkyl)₂, -C(=O)NH₂, -C(=O)NH(C₁₋₆)alkyl and -C(=O)N((C₁₋₆)alkyl)₂;

(iv) **Het** or **Het**-(C₁₋₆)alkyl-, each optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from (C₁₋₆)alkyl, -OH, -NH₂, -NH(C₁₋₆)alkyl, -N((C₁₋₆)alkyl)₂, -C(=O)NH₂, -C(=O)NH(C₁₋₆)alkyl and -C(=O)N((C₁₋₆)alkyl)₂; and

(v) (C₂₋₆)alkenyl, or (C₂₋₆)alkynyl, each optionally substituted with 1 to 3 halogens; and wherein

R⁵¹ is selected from H and (C₁₋₆)alkyl;

provided that B is not (C₁₋₁₀)alkyl unsubstituted when R⁵ is B-O-C(=O)-:

Y is H or (C₁₋₆)alkyl;

R⁴ and **R**⁶ are each independently selected from H, (C₁₋₆)alkyl, -O-(C₁₋₆)alkyl, (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl, (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl-(C₁₋₆)alkyl-, aryl, **Het**, and aryl-(C₁₋₆)alkyl-; wherein said (C₁₋₆)alkyl, -O-(C₁₋₆)alkyl, (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl, (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl-(C₁₋₆)alkyl-, aryl and aryl-(C₁₋₆)alkyl- are each optionally substituted with one or more substituents each independently selected from halogen, (C₁₋₆)alkyl, hydroxy, cyano, O-(C₁₋₆)alkyl, -NH₂, -NH(C₁₋₄)alkyl, -N((C₁₋₄)alkyl)₂, -CO-NH₂, -CO-NH(C₁₋₄)alkyl, -CO-N((C₁₋₄)alkyl)₂, -COOH, and -COO(C₁₋₆)alkyl; or

R⁴ and **R**⁶ are linked, together with the nitrogen to which they are bonded, to form a 3- to 7-membered monocyclic saturated or unsaturated heterocycle optionally fused to at least one other cycle to form a heteropolycycle, each of said heterocycle and heteropolycycle optionally containing from one to three additional heteroatoms each independently selected from N, S and O, and each of said heterocycle and

heteropolycycle being optionally substituted with one or more substituents each independently selected from halogen, (C₁₋₆)alkyl, hydroxy, cyano, O-(C₁₋₆)alkyl, -NH₂, -NH(C₁₋₄)alkyl, -N((C₁₋₄)alkyl)₂, -CO-NH₂, -CO-NH(C₁₋₄)alkyl, -CO-N((C₁₋₄)alkyl)₂, -COOH, and -COO(C₁₋₆)alkyl;

with the proviso that when:

R⁵ is B-O-C(=O)- or B-N(**R**⁵¹)-C(=O)-, wherein

R⁵¹ is H; and

B is selected from (C₁₋₁₀)alkyl, (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl, and (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl-(C₁₋₄)alkyl,

a) wherein said alkyl, cycloalkyl, and cycloalkyl-alkyl are optionally mono-, di- or tri-substituted with (C₁₋₃)alkyl; and

b) wherein said alkyl, cycloalkyl, and cycloalkyl-alkyl are optionally mono- or di-substituted with substituents selected from hydroxy and

O-(C₁₋₄)alkyl; and

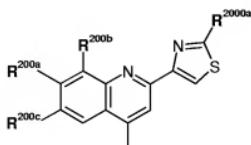
c) wherein each of said alkyl groups may be mono-, di- or tri-substituted with halogen; and

d) wherein in each of said cycloalkyl groups being 4-, 5-, 6- or 7-membered, one (for the 4-, 5-, 6-, or 7-membered) or two (for the 5-, 6- or 7-membered) -CH₂-groups not directly linked to each other may be replaced by -O- to provide a heterocycle, such that the O-atom is linked to the -O-C(=O) or -N(**R**⁵¹)-C(=O) group via at least two carbon atoms; and

R² is O-**R**²⁰;

then

R²⁰ cannot be



wherein

\mathbf{R}^{200a} is H, halogen, $(\text{C}_{1-4})\text{alkyl}$, $-\text{OH}$, $-\text{O}-(\text{C}_{1-4})\text{alkyl}$, $-\text{NH}_2$, $-\text{NH}(\text{C}_{1-4})\text{alkyl}$ or $-\text{N}((\text{C}_{1-4})\text{alkyl})_2$;

\mathbf{R}^{200b} , \mathbf{R}^{200c} are each independently halogen, cyano, $(\text{C}_{1-4})\text{alkyl}$, $-\text{O}-(\text{C}_{1-4})\text{alkyl}$, $-\text{S}-(\text{C}_{1-4})\text{alkyl}$, $-\text{SO}-(\text{C}_{1-4})\text{alkyl}$, or $-\text{SO}_2-(\text{C}_{1-4})\text{alkyl}$, wherein each of said alkyl groups is optionally substituted with from one to three halogen atoms; and either \mathbf{R}^{200b} or \mathbf{R}^{200c} (but not both at the same time) may also be H; or

\mathbf{R}^{200a} and \mathbf{R}^{200b} or

\mathbf{R}^{200a} and \mathbf{R}^{200c} may be covalently bonded to form, together with the two C-atoms to which they are linked, a 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic ring wherein one or two $-\text{CH}_2-$ groups not being directly linked to each other may be replaced each independently by $-\text{O}-$ or NR^a wherein \mathbf{R}^a is H or $(\text{C}_{1-4})\text{alkyl}$, and wherein said carbo- or heterocyclic ring is optionally mono- or di-substituted with $(\text{C}_{1-4})\text{alkyl}$; and

\mathbf{R}^{2000a} is \mathbf{R}^{2003} , $-\text{N}(\mathbf{R}^{2002})\text{COR}^{2003}$, $-\text{N}(\mathbf{R}^{2002})\text{COOR}^{2003}$, $-\text{N}(\mathbf{R}^{2002})(\mathbf{R}^{2004})$, or $-\text{N}(\mathbf{R}^{2002})\text{CON}(\mathbf{R}^{2002})(\mathbf{R}^{2004})$, wherein

\mathbf{R}^{2002} is H or methyl;

\mathbf{R}^{2003} is $(\text{C}_{1-8})\text{alkyl}$, $(\text{C}_{3-7})\text{cycloalkyl}$ or $(\text{C}_{3-7})\text{cycloalkyl}-(\text{C}_{1-4})\text{alkyl}$ -, wherein said $(\text{C}_{3-7})\text{cycloalkyl}$ and $(\text{C}_{3-7})\text{cycloalkyl}-(\text{C}_{1-4})\text{alkyl}$ - are optionally mono-, di-, or tri-substituted with $(\text{C}_{1-3})\text{alkyl}$; and

\mathbf{R}^{2004} is H or \mathbf{R}^{2003} ;

wherein **Het** is defined as a 3- to 7-membered heterocycle having 1 to 4 heteroatoms each independently selected from O, N and S, which may be saturated, unsaturated or aromatic, and which is optionally fused to at least one other cycle to form a 4- to 14-membered heteropolycycle having wherever possible 1 to 5 heteroatoms, each independently selected from O, N and S, said heteropolycycle being saturated, unsaturated or aromatic;

or a diastereomer thereof or a salt thereof.

2. **(Currently Amended)** The compound according to claim 1 wherein

- n** is 1 or 2;
- m** is 1 or 2;
- R¹** is H, (C₁₋₆)alkyl, (C₂₋₆)alkenyl, or (C₂₋₆)alkynyl, wherein each of said (C₁₋₆)alkyl, (C₂₋₆)alkenyl, or (C₂₋₆)alkynyl are optionally substituted with from one to three halogen atoms;
- R²** is selected from -CH₂-R²⁰, -NH-R²⁰, -O-R²⁰, -S-R²⁰, -SO-R²⁰, -SO₂-R²⁰, -CH₂O-R²⁰, and -O-X-R²⁰, wherein
X is (C₂₋₃)alkenyl, (C₂₋₃)alkynyl, or (C₁₋₃)alkyl; and
- R²⁰** is (C₆ or C₁₀)aryl or **Het**, wherein said (C₆ or C₁₀)aryl or **Het** is optionally substituted with **R²⁰⁰**; wherein
- R²⁰⁰** is one to four substituents each independently selected from H, halogen, cyano, (C₁₋₆)alkyl, (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl, aryl-(C₁₋₆)alkyl-, aryl, **Het**, o xo, thioxo, -OR²⁰¹, -SR²⁰¹, -SOR²⁰¹, -SO₂R²⁰¹, -N(R²⁰²)R²⁰¹, and -CON(R²⁰²)R²⁰¹; wherein each of said alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl and **Het** is optionally further substituted with **R²⁰⁰⁰**;
- R²⁰¹** in each case is independently selected from H, (C₁₋₆)alkyl, (C₂₋₆)alkenyl, aryl, -CO-(C₁₋₆)alkyl and -CO-O-(C₁₋₆)alkyl, wherein each of said alkyl and aryl is optionally further substituted with **R²⁰⁰⁰**;
- R²⁰²** in each case is independently selected from H and (C₁₋₆)alkyl;
- R²⁰⁰⁰** in each case is one to three substituents each independently selected from halogen, aryl, **Het**, -OR²⁰⁰¹, -SR²⁰⁰¹, -SOR²⁰⁰¹, -SO₂R²⁰⁰¹, cyano, -N(R²⁰⁰²)(R²⁰⁰¹), and **R²⁰⁰³**, wherein said aryl and **Het** are optionally substituted with one, two or three substituents each independently selected from (C₁₋₆)alkyl and -O-(C₁₋₆)alkyl;
- R²⁰⁰¹** in each case is independently selected from aryl, aryl-(C₁₋₆)alkyl-, -C(O)-R²⁰⁰³, -C(O)O-R²⁰⁰³, -CON(R²⁰⁰²)(R²⁰⁰⁴) and **R²⁰⁰⁴**;

R²⁰⁰² in each case is independently selected from H and (C₁₋₆)alkyl;

R²⁰⁰³ in each case is independently selected from (C₁₋₈)alkyl, (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl and (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl-(C₁₋₄)alkyl-, wherein said (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl and (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl-(C₁₋₄)alkyl- are each optionally substituted with one to three substituents each independently selected from (C₁₋₃)alkyl; and

R²⁰⁰⁴ in each case is independently selected from H and **R²⁰⁰³**;

R³ is (C₁₋₈)alkyl, (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl or (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl-(C₁₋₃)alkyl-, each optionally substituted with one or more substituents each independently selected from (C₁₋₆)alkyl, (C₂₋₆)alkenyl, halogen, cyano, -OR³⁰, -SR³⁰, -C(=O)OR³⁰, -C(=O)NH₂, -C(=O)NH(C₁₋₆)alkyl, -C(=O)N((C₁₋₆)alkyl)₂, -NH₂, -NH(C₁₋₆)alkyl, -N((C₁₋₆)alkyl)₂, aryl, and aryl(C₁₋₆)alkyl-, wherein **R³⁰** is H, (C₁₋₆)alkyl, aryl, or aryl(C₁₋₆)alkyl-;

R⁵ is selected from **B**, **B**-C(=O)-, **B**-O-C(=O)-, **B**-N(**R⁵¹**)-C(=O)-; **B**-N(**R⁵¹**)-C(=S)-, **B**-SO₂- and **B**-N(**R⁵¹**)-SO₂-; wherein **B** is selected from:

- (i) (C₁₋₁₀)alkyl optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from -COOH, -COO(C₁₋₆)alkyl, -OH, halogen, -OC(=O)(C₁₋₆)alkyl, -O(C₁₋₆)alkyl, -NH₂, -NH(C₁₋₆)alkyl, -N((C₁₋₆)alkyl)₂, -C(=O)NH₂, -C(=O)NH(C₁₋₆)alkyl and -C(=O)N((C₁₋₆)alkyl)₂;
- (ii) (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl, or (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl-(C₁₋₄)alkyl-, each optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from (C₁₋₆)alkyl, halogen, -COOH, -COO(C₁₋₆)alkyl, -OH, -O(C₁₋₆)alkyl, -NH₂, -NH(C₁₋₆)alkyl, -N((C₁₋₆)alkyl)₂, -C(=O)NH₂, -C(=O)NH(C₁₋₆)alkyl and -C(=O)N((C₁₋₆)alkyl)₂;
- (iii) aryl or aryl(C₁₋₆)alkyl-, each optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from (C₁₋₆)alkyl, -OH, -NH₂, -NH(C₁₋₆)alkyl, -N((C₁₋₆)alkyl)₂, -C(=O)NH₂, -C(=O)NH(C₁₋₆)alkyl and -C(=O)N((C₁₋₆)alkyl)₂;
- (iv) **Het** or **Het**-(C₁₋₆)alkyl-, each optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from (C₁₋₆)alkyl, -OH, -NH₂,

-NH(C₁₋₆)alkyl, -N((C₁₋₆)alkyl)₂, -C(=O)NH₂, -C(=O)NH(C₁₋₆)alkyl and
-C(=O)N((C₁₋₆)alkyl)₂; and

(v) (C₂₋₆)alkenyl, or (C₂₋₆)alkynyl, each optionally substituted with 1 to 3
halogens; and wherein

R⁵¹ is selected from H and (C₁₋₆)alkyl;

provided that B is not (C₁₋₁₀)alkyl unsubstituted when **R**⁵ is B-O-C(=O)-;

Y is H or (C₁₋₆)alkyl;

R⁴ and **R**⁶ are each independently selected from H, (C₁₋₆)alkyl, -O-(C₁₋₆)alkyl,
(C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl, (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl-(C₁₋₆)alkyl-, aryl, **Het**, and aryl-(C₁₋₆)alkyl-;
wherein said (C₁₋₆)alkyl, -O-(C₁₋₆)alkyl, (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl,
(C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl-(C₁₋₆)alkyl-, aryl and aryl-(C₁₋₆)alkyl- are each optionally
substituted with one or more substituents each independently selected from
halogen, (C₁₋₆)alkyl, hydroxy, cyano, O-(C₁₋₆)alkyl, -NH₂, -NH(C₁₋₄)alkyl,
-N((C₁₋₄)alkyl)₂, -CO-NH₂, -CO-NH(C₁₋₄)alkyl, -CO-N((C₁₋₄)alkyl)₂, -COOH, and
-COO(C₁₋₆)alkyl; or

R⁴ and **R**⁶ are linked, together with the nitrogen to which they are bonded, to form a 3- to
7-membered monocyclic saturated or unsaturated heterocycle optionally fused to
at least one other cycle to form a heteropolycycle, each of said heterocycle and
heteropolycycle optionally containing from one to three additional heteroatoms
each independently selected from N, S and O, and each of said heterocycle and
heteropolycycle being optionally substituted with one or more substituents each
independently selected from halogen, (C₁₋₆)alkyl, hydroxy, cyano, O-(C₁₋₆)alkyl,
-NH₂, -NH(C₁₋₄)alkyl, -N((C₁₋₄)alkyl)₂, -CO-NH₂, -CO-NH(C₁₋₄)alkyl,
-CO-N((C₁₋₄)alkyl)₂, -COOH, and -COO(C₁₋₆)alkyl;

with the proviso that when:

R⁵ is B-O-C(=O)- or B-N(**R**⁵¹)-C(=O)-, wherein

R⁵¹ is H; and

B is selected from (C₁₋₁₀)alkyl, (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl, and (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl-(C₁₋₄)alkyl,

a) wherein said alkyl, cycloalkyl, and cycloalkyl-alkyl are optionally mono-,

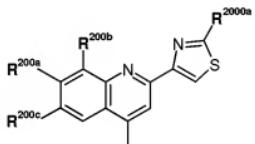
di- or tri-substituted with (C₁₋₃)alkyl; and

- b) wherein said alkyl, cycloalkyl, and cycloalkyl-alkyl are optionally mono- or di-substituted with substituents selected from hydroxy and O-(C₁₋₄)alkyl; and
- c) wherein each of said alkyl groups may be mono-, di- or tri-substituted with halogen; and
- d) wherein in each of said cycloalkyl groups being 4-, 5-, 6- or 7-membered, one (for the 4-, 5-, 6-, or 7-membered) or two (for the 5-, 6- or 7-membered) -CH₂-groups not directly linked to each other may be replaced by -O- to provide a heterocycle, such that the O-atom is linked to the -O-C(=O) or -N(R⁵¹)-C(=O) group via at least two carbon atoms; and

R² is O-R²⁰;

then

R²⁰ cannot be



wherein

R^{200a} is H, halogen, (C₁₋₄)alkyl, -OH, -O-(C₁₋₄)alkyl, -NH₂, -NH(C₁₋₄)alkyl or -N(C₁₋₄)alkyl₂;

R^{200b}, R^{200c} are each independently halogen, cyano, (C₁₋₄)alkyl, -O-(C₁₋₄)alkyl, -S-(C₁₋₄)alkyl, -SO-(C₁₋₄)alkyl, or -SO₂-(C₁₋₄)alkyl, wherein each of said alkyl groups is optionally substituted with from one to three halogen atoms; and either R^{200b} or R^{200c} (but not both at the same time) may also be H; or

R^{200a} and R^{200b} or

R^{200a} and R^{200c} may be covalently bonded to form, together with the two C-atoms to which they are linked, a 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic ring wherein one

or two -CH₂-groups not being directly linked to each other may be replaced each independently by -O- or NR^a wherein R^a is H or (C₁₋₄)alkyl, and wherein said carbo- or heterocyclic ring is optionally mono- or di-substituted with (C₁₋₄)alkyl; and

R^{2000a} is R²⁰⁰³, -N(R²⁰⁰²)COR²⁰⁰³, -N(R²⁰⁰²)COOR²⁰⁰³, -N(R²⁰⁰²)(R²⁰⁰⁴), or -N(R²⁰⁰²)CON(R²⁰⁰²)(R²⁰⁰⁴), wherein

R²⁰⁰² is H or methyl;

R²⁰⁰³ is (C₁₋₈)alkyl, (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl or (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl-(C₁₋₄)alkyl-, wherein said (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl and (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl-(C₁₋₄)alkyl- are optionally mono-, di-, or tri-substituted with (C₁₋₃)alkyl; and

R²⁰⁰⁴ is H or R²⁰⁰³;

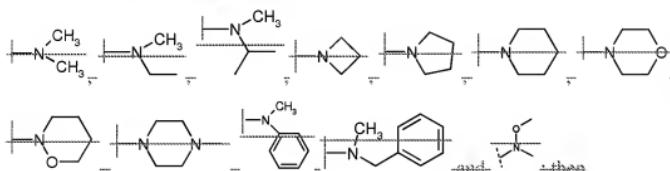
and with the further proviso that when:

R⁵ is B-O-C(=O) and B is selected from methyl and 1,1-dimethylethyl; and

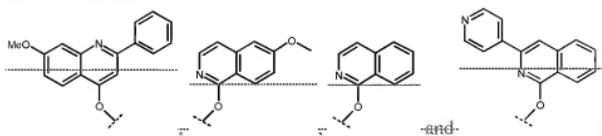
R³ is 1,1-dimethylethyl; and

R⁴ is ethenyl; and

the group -N(R⁴)R⁶ is selected from:



R³ is not selected from:



wherein Het is defined as a 3- to 7-membered heterocycle having 1 to 4 heteroatoms each independently selected from O, N and S, which may be saturated, unsaturated or

aromatic, and which is optionally fused to at least one other cycle to form a 4- to 14-membered heteropolycycle having wherever possible 1 to 5 heteroatoms, each independently selected from O, N and S, said heteropolycycle being saturated, unsaturated or aromatic;

or a diastereomer thereof or a salt thereof.

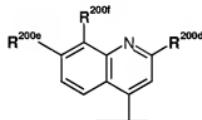
3. **(Currently amended)** The compound according to claim 1 wherein \mathbf{R}^5 is selected from $\mathbf{B}-\mathbf{C}(=\mathbf{O})-$, $\mathbf{B}-\mathbf{O}-\mathbf{C}(=\mathbf{O})-$, and $\mathbf{B}-\mathbf{N}(\mathbf{R}^{51})-\mathbf{C}(=\mathbf{O})-$; wherein \mathbf{B} and \mathbf{R}^{51} are defined as in claim 1, provided that B is not (C_{1-10}) alkyl unsubstituted when \mathbf{R}^5 is $\mathbf{B}-\mathbf{O}-\mathbf{C}(=\mathbf{O})-$.
4. **(Currently Amended)** The compound according to claim 3 wherein \mathbf{R}^{51} is H and \mathbf{B} is selected from:
 - (i) (C_{1-7}) alkyl optionally substituted with one or two or three substituents each independently selected from fluoro, chloro, bromo, hydroxy, methoxy and ethoxy; or optionally substituted with $-\text{COOCH}_3$;
 - (ii) (C_{3-7}) cycloalkyl, or (C_{3-7}) cycloalkyl-methyl-, each optionally substituted with one or two substituents each independently selected from methyl, ethyl, hydroxy, methoxy and ethoxy;
 - (iii) benzyl; and
 - (iv) **Het**, wherein **Het** comprises a 3-, 4-, 5-, 6-, or 7-membered heterocycle having one to four heteroatoms each independently selected from O, N, and S, which may be saturated or unsaturated or aromatic;
provided that B is not (C_{1-7}) alkyl unsubstituted when \mathbf{R}^5 is $\mathbf{B}-\mathbf{O}-\mathbf{C}(=\mathbf{O})-$.
5. **(Previously presented)** The compound according to claim 1 wherein \mathbf{Y} is H.

6. **(Previously presented)** The compound according to claim 1 wherein \mathbf{R}^3 is (C₁₋₈)alkyl or (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl, the (C₁₋₈)alkyl being optionally substituted with hydroxy, (C₁₋₆)alkoxy or -C(=O)OR³⁰, wherein R³⁰ is (C₁₋₆)alkyl or aryl(C₁₋₆)alkyl-.

7. **(Previously presented)** The compound according to claim 1 wherein \mathbf{R}^2 is selected from -O-R²⁰, -S-R²⁰, and -O-X-R²⁰, wherein R²⁰ and X are defined as in claim 1.

8. **(Original)** The compound according to claim 7 wherein \mathbf{R}^2 is -O-X-R²⁰, wherein X is (C₃)alkynyl and R²⁰ is (C₆ or C₁₀)aryl.

9. **(Original)** The compound according to claim 7 wherein \mathbf{R}^2 is -O-R²⁰, wherein R²⁰ is

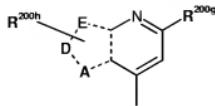


wherein

R^{200d} is -OR²⁰¹, wherein R²⁰¹ is (C₁₋₆)alkyl;
 R^{200e} is H or -OR²⁰¹, wherein R²⁰¹ is (C₁₋₆)alkyl; and
 R^{200f} is (C₁₋₆)alkyl, halogen, -SR²⁰¹, -SO₂R²⁰¹, or -OR²⁰¹, wherein R²⁰¹ is (C₁₋₆)alkyl
 optionally further substituted with (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl or phenyl.

10. **(Original)** The compound according to claim 9 wherein R^{200d} is -OR²⁰¹ wherein R²⁰¹ is ethyl.

11. **(Original)** The compound according to claim 7 wherein \mathbf{R}^2 is -O-R²⁰, wherein R²⁰ is



wherein

one of **A**, **D**, and **E** represents a **S** atom and the other two of **A**, **D**, and **E** represent **C** atoms;

---- represents a single bond between a **C** atom and an **S** atom, and represents a single bond or a double bond between two **C** atoms; provided that each **C** atom is bonded by one double bond;

R^{200g} is **H** or **-OR**²⁰¹, wherein **R**²⁰¹ is (**C**₁₋₆)alkyl or (**C**₂₋₆)alkenyl; and

R^{200h} is one or two substituents each independently selected from **H**, cyano, (**C**₁₋₆)alkyl and **-SO**₂(**C**₁₋₆)alkyl; wherein each **R**^{200h} is bonded to a **C** atom which would otherwise bear a hydrogen atom.

12. **(Previously presented)** The compound according to claim 1 wherein **n** is 1.
13. **(Previously presented)** The compound according to claim 1 wherein **R**¹ is (**C**₂₋₆)alkenyl or (**C**₂₋₆)alkyl.
14. **(Previously presented)** The compound according to claim 1 wherein **m** is 2.
15. **(Previously presented)** The compound according to claim 1 wherein:
 - (i) **R**⁴ and **R**⁶ are each independently selected from **H**, (**C**₁₋₆)alkyl, **-O-(C**₁₋₆)alkyl, (**C**₃₋₇)cycloalkyl, (**C**₃₋₇)cycloalkyl-(**C**₁₋₆)alkyl-, aryl and aryl-(**C**₁₋₆)alkyl-; wherein said (**C**₁₋₆)alkyl, **-O-(C**₁₋₆)alkyl, (**C**₃₋₇)cycloalkyl, (**C**₃₋₇)cycloalkyl-(**C**₁₋₆)alkyl-, aryl and aryl-(**C**₁₋₆)alkyl- are each optionally substituted with one to three substituents each independently selected from halogen, (**C**₁₋₆)alkyl, hydroxy, cyano, **O-(C**₁₋₆)alkyl, **-COOH**, and **-COO(C**₁₋₆)alkyl; or
 - (ii) **R**⁴ and **R**⁶ are linked, together with the nitrogen to which they are bonded, to form a 3- to 7-membered monocyclic saturated or unsaturated heterocycle, said heterocycle optionally containing from one to three additional heteroatoms each independently selected from **N**, **S** and **O**, and said 3- to 7-membered monocyclic saturated or unsaturated heterocycle being optionally substituted with one to three

substituents each independently selected from halogen, (C₁₋₆)alkyl, hydroxy, cyano, O-(C₁₋₆)alkyl, -NH₂, -NH(C₁₋₄)alkyl, -N((C₁₋₄)alkyl)₂, -COOH, and -COO(C₁₋₆)alkyl.

16. (Currently Amended) The compound according to claim 1 wherein:

n is 1 or 2;

m is 1 or 2;

R¹ is H, (C₁₋₆)alkyl, (C₂₋₆)alkenyl, or (C₂₋₆)alkynyl, wherein said (C₁₋₆)alkyl, (C₂₋₆)alkenyl, or (C₂₋₆)alkynyl are optionally substituted with from one to three halogen atoms;

R² is selected from -CH₂-R²⁰, -NH-R²⁰, -O-R²⁰, -S-R²⁰, -SO-R²⁰, -SO₂-R²⁰, -CH₂O-R²⁰, and -O-X-R²⁰, wherein

X is (C₂₋₃)alkenyl, (C₂₋₃)alkynyl, or (C₁₋₃)alkyl; and

R²⁰ is (C₆ or C₁₀)aryl or **Het**, wherein said (C₆ or C₁₀)aryl or **Het** is optionally mono-, di-, tri- or tetra-substituted with **R**²⁰⁰, wherein each **R**²⁰⁰ is independently selected from H, halogen, cyano, (C₁₋₆)alkyl, (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl, aryl-(C₁₋₆)alkyl-, aryl, **Het**, oxo, thioxo, -OR²⁰¹, -SR²⁰¹, -SOR²⁰¹, -SO₂R²⁰¹, -N(R²⁰²)R²⁰¹, and -CON(R²⁰²)R²⁰¹; wherein each of said alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl and **Het** is optionally further substituted with **R**²⁰⁰⁰;

R²⁰¹ in each case is independently selected from H, (C₁₋₆)alkyl, aryl, -CO-(C₁₋₆)alkyl and -CO-O-(C₁₋₆)alkyl, wherein each of said alkyl and aryl is optionally further substituted with **R**²⁰⁰⁰;

R²⁰² is H or (C₁₋₆)alkyl;

R²⁰⁰⁰ is one to three substituents each independently selected from halogen, aryl, **Het**, -OR²⁰⁰¹, -SR²⁰⁰¹, -SOR²⁰⁰¹, -SO₂R²⁰⁰¹, cyano, -N(R²⁰⁰²)(R²⁰⁰¹), and **R**²⁰⁰³, wherein said aryl and **Het** are optionally substituted with one, two or three substituents selected from (C₁₋₆)alkyl and -O-(C₁₋₆)alkyl;

R²⁰⁰¹ in each case is independently selected from aryl, aryl-(C₁₋₆)alkyl-, -C(O)-

\mathbf{R}^{2003} , $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{O}-\mathbf{R}^{2003}$, $-\text{CON}(\mathbf{R}^{2002})(\mathbf{R}^{2004})$ and \mathbf{R}^{2004} ;

\mathbf{R}^{2002} is H or $(\text{C}_{1-6})\text{alkyl}$;

\mathbf{R}^{2003} is $(\text{C}_{1-8})\text{alkyl}$, $(\text{C}_{3-7})\text{cycloalkyl}$ or $(\text{C}_{3-7})\text{cycloalkyl-(C}_{1-4}\text{)alkyl-}$, wherein said $(\text{C}_{3-7})\text{cycloalkyl}$ and $(\text{C}_{3-7})\text{cycloalkyl-(C}_{1-4}\text{)alkyl-}$ are optionally mono-, di-, or tri-substituted with $(\text{C}_{1-3})\text{alkyl}$; and

\mathbf{R}^{2004} is H or \mathbf{R}^{2003} ;

\mathbf{R}^3 is $(\text{C}_{1-8})\text{alkyl}$, $(\text{C}_{3-7})\text{cycloalkyl}$ or $(\text{C}_{3-7})\text{cycloalkyl-(C}_{1-3}\text{)alkyl-}$, each optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from $(\text{C}_{1-6})\text{alkyl}$, $(\text{C}_{2-6})\text{alkenyl}$, halogen, cyano, $-\text{OR}^{30}$, $-\text{SR}^{30}$, $-\text{C}(\text{=O})\text{OR}^{30}$, $-\text{C}(\text{=O})\text{NH}_2$, $-\text{C}(\text{=O})\text{NH}(\text{C}_{1-6})\text{alkyl}$, $\text{C}(\text{=O})\text{N}((\text{C}_{1-6})\text{alkyl})_2$, $-\text{NH}_2$, $-\text{NH}(\text{C}_{1-6})\text{alkyl}$, $-\text{N}((\text{C}_{1-6})\text{alkyl})_2$, aryl, and aryl($\text{C}_{1-6})\text{alkyl-}$, wherein \mathbf{R}^{30} is H, $(\text{C}_{1-6})\text{alkyl}$, aryl, or aryl($\text{C}_{1-6})\text{alkyl-}$;

\mathbf{R}^5 is selected from \mathbf{B} , $\mathbf{B}-\text{C}(\text{=O})-$, $\mathbf{B}-\text{O}-\text{C}(\text{=O})-$, $\mathbf{B}-\text{N}(\mathbf{R}^{51})-\text{C}(\text{=O})-$; $\mathbf{B}-\text{N}(\mathbf{R}^{51})-\text{C}(\text{=S})-$, $\mathbf{B}-\text{SO}_2-$ and $\mathbf{B}-\text{N}(\mathbf{R}^{51})-\text{SO}_2-$; wherein \mathbf{B} is selected from:

- (i) $(\text{C}_{1-10})\text{alkyl}$ optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from $-\text{COOH}$, $-\text{COO}(\text{C}_{1-6})\text{alkyl}$, $-\text{OH}$, halogen, $-\text{OC}(\text{=O})(\text{C}_{1-6})\text{alkyl}$, $-\text{O}(\text{C}_{1-6})\text{alkyl}$, $-\text{NH}_2$, $-\text{NH}(\text{C}_{1-6})\text{alkyl}$, $-\text{N}((\text{C}_{1-6})\text{alkyl})_2$, $-\text{C}(\text{=O})\text{NH}_2$, $-\text{C}(\text{=O})\text{NH}(\text{C}_{1-6})\text{alkyl}$ and $-\text{C}(\text{=O})\text{N}((\text{C}_{1-6})\text{alkyl})_2$;
- (ii) $(\text{C}_{3-7})\text{cycloalkyl}$, or $(\text{C}_{3-7})\text{cycloalkyl-(C}_{1-4}\text{)alkyl-}$, each optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from $(\text{C}_{1-6})\text{alkyl}$, halogen, $-\text{COOH}$, $-\text{COO}(\text{C}_{1-6})\text{alkyl}$, $-\text{OH}$, $-\text{O}(\text{C}_{1-6})\text{alkyl}$, $-\text{NH}_2$, $-\text{NH}(\text{C}_{1-6})\text{alkyl}$, $-\text{N}((\text{C}_{1-6})\text{alkyl})_2$, $-\text{C}(\text{=O})\text{NH}_2$, $-\text{C}(\text{=O})\text{NH}(\text{C}_{1-6})\text{alkyl}$ and $\text{C}(\text{=O})\text{N}((\text{C}_{1-6})\text{alkyl})_2$;
- (iii) aryl or aryl($\text{C}_{1-6})\text{alkyl-}$, each optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from $(\text{C}_{1-6})\text{alkyl}$, $-\text{OH}$, $-\text{NH}_2$, $-\text{NH}(\text{C}_{1-6})\text{alkyl}$, $-\text{N}((\text{C}_{1-6})\text{alkyl})_2$, $-\text{C}(\text{=O})\text{NH}_2$, $-\text{C}(\text{=O})\text{NH}(\text{C}_{1-6})\text{alkyl}$ and $\text{C}(\text{=O})\text{N}((\text{C}_{1-6})\text{alkyl})_2$;
- (iv) **Het** or **Het-(C₁₋₆)alkyl-**, each optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from $(\text{C}_{1-6})\text{alkyl}$, $-\text{OH}$, $-\text{NH}_2$,

-NH(C₁₋₆)alkyl, -N((C₁₋₆)alkyl)₂, -C(=O)NH₂, -C(=O)NH(C₁₋₆)alkyl and
C(=O)N((C₁₋₆)alkyl)₂; and

(v) (C₂₋₆)alkenyl, or (C₂₋₆)alkynyl, each optionally substituted with 1 to 3
halogens; and wherein

R⁵¹ is selected from H and (C₁₋₆)alkyl;

provided that **B** is not (C₁₋₁₀)alkyl unsubstituted, when **R**⁵ is B-O-C(=O)-;

Y is H or (C₁₋₆)alkyl;

R⁴ and **R**⁶ are each independently selected from H, (C₁₋₆)alkyl, (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl,
(C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl-(C₁₋₆)alkyl-, aryl, **Het**, and aryl-(C₁₋₆)alkyl-; wherein said
(C₁₋₆)alkyl, (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl, (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl-(C₁₋₆)alkyl-, aryl and aryl-(C₁₋₆)alkyl-
are optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected
from halogen, (C₁₋₆)alkyl, hydroxy, cyano, O-(C₁₋₆)alkyl, -NH₂, -NH(C₁₋₄)alkyl,
-N((C₁₋₄)alkyl)₂, -CO-NH₂, -CO-NH(C₁₋₄)alkyl, -CO-N((C₁₋₄)alkyl)₂, -COOH, and
-COO(C₁₋₆)alkyl; or

R⁴ and **R**⁶ are linked, together with the nitrogen to which they are bonded, to form a 3- to
7-membered monocyclic saturated or unsaturated heterocycle optionally fused to
at least one other cycle to form a heteropolycycle, said heterocycle and
heteropolycycle optionally containing from one to three further heteroatoms
independently selected from N, S and O, and said 3- to 7-membered monocyclic
saturated or unsaturated heterocycle being optionally substituted with one or more
substituents independently selected from halogen, (C₁₋₆)alkyl, hydroxy, cyano,
O-(C₁₋₆)alkyl, -NH₂, -NH(C₁₋₄)alkyl, -N((C₁₋₄)alkyl)₂, -CO-NH₂,
-CO-NH(C₁₋₄)alkyl, -CO-N((C₁₋₄)alkyl)₂, -COOH, and -COO(C₁₋₆)alkyl;

with the proviso that when:

R⁵ is B-O-C(=O)- or B-N(**R**⁵¹)-C(=O)-, wherein

R⁵¹ is H; and

B is selected from (C₁₋₁₀)alkyl, (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl, and (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl-(C₁₋₄)alkyl,

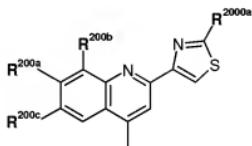
a) wherein said alkyl, cycloalkyl, and cycloalkyl-alkyl are optionally mono-,
di- or tri-substituted with (C₁₋₃)alkyl; and

- b) wherein said alkyl, cycloalkyl, and cycloalkyl-alkyl are optionally mono- or di-substituted with substituents selected from hydroxy and O-(C₁₋₄)alkyl; and
- c) wherein each of said alkyl groups may be mono-, di- or tri-substituted with halogen; and
- d) wherein in each of said cycloalkyl groups being 4-, 5-, 6- or 7-membered, one (for the 4-, 5-, 6-, or 7-membered) or two (for the 5-, 6- or 7-membered) -CH₂-groups not directly linked to each other may be replaced by -O- to provide a heterocycle, such that the O-atom is linked to the -O-C(=O) or -N(R⁵¹)-C(=O) group via at least two carbon atoms; and

R² is O-R²⁰;

then

R²⁰ cannot be



wherein

R^{200a} is H, halogen, (C₁₋₄)alkyl, -OH, -O-(C₁₋₄)alkyl, -NH₂, -NH(C₁₋₄)alkyl or -N((C₁₋₄)alkyl)₂;

R^{200b}, R^{200c} are each independently halogen, cyano, (C₁₋₄)alkyl, -O-(C₁₋₄)alkyl, -S-(C₁₋₄)alkyl, -SO-(C₁₋₄)alkyl, or -SO₂-(C₁₋₄)alkyl, wherein each of said alkyl groups is optionally substituted with from one to three halogen atoms; and either R^{200b} or R^{200c} (but not both at the same time) may also be H; or

R^{200a} and R^{200b} or

R^{200a} and R^{200c} may be covalently bonded to form, together with the two C-atoms to which they are linked, a 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic ring wherein one or two -CH₂-groups not being directly linked to each other may be

replaced each independently by -O- or NR^a wherein R^a is H or (C₁₋₄)alkyl, and wherein said carbo- or heterocyclic ring is optionally mono- or di-substituted with (C₁₋₄)alkyl; and

R^{2000a} is R²⁰⁰³, -N(R²⁰⁰²)COR²⁰⁰³, -N(R²⁰⁰²)COOR²⁰⁰³, -N(R²⁰⁰²)(R²⁰⁰⁴), or -N(R²⁰⁰²)CON(R²⁰⁰²)(R²⁰⁰⁴), wherein

R²⁰⁰² is H or methyl;

R²⁰⁰³ is (C₁₋₈)alkyl, (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl or (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl-(C₁₋₄)alkyl-, wherein said (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl and (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl-(C₁₋₄)alkyl- are optionally mono-, di-, or tri-substituted with (C₁₋₃)alkyl; and

R²⁰⁰⁴ is H or R²⁰⁰³;

wherein Het is defined as a 3- to 7-membered heterocycle having 1 to 4 heteroatoms each independently selected from O, N and S, which may be saturated, unsaturated or aromatic, and which is optionally fused to at least one other cycle to form a 4- to 14-membered heteropolycycle having wherever possible 1 to 5 heteroatoms, each independently selected from O, N and S, said heteropolycycle being saturated, unsaturated or aromatic;

or a diastereomer thereof or a salt thereof.

17. **(Currently Amended)** The compound according to claim 1 wherein:

R⁵ is selected from B-C(=O)-, B-O-C(=O)-, and B-NH-C(=O)-; wherein B is selected from:

- (i) (C₁₋₁₀)alkyl optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from -COOH, -COO(C₁₋₆)alkyl, -OH, halogen, -OC(=O)(C₁₋₆)alkyl, -O(C₁₋₆)alkyl, -NH₂, -NH(C₁₋₆)alkyl, -N((C₁₋₆)alkyl)₂, -C(=O)NH₂, -C(=O)NH(C₁₋₆)alkyl and -C(=O)N((C₁₋₆)alkyl)₂;
- (ii) (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl, or (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl-(C₁₋₄)alkyl-, each optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from (C₁₋₆)alkyl, halogen,

-COOH, -COO(C₁₋₆)alkyl, -OH, -O(C₁₋₆)alkyl, -NH₂, -NH(C₁₋₆)alkyl,
 -N((C₁₋₆)alkyl)₂, -C(=O)NH₂, -C(=O)NH(C₁₋₆)alkyl and -C(=O)N((C₁₋₆)alkyl)₂;

(iii) aryl or aryl(C₁₋₆)alkyl-, each optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from (C₁₋₆)alkyl, -OH, -NH₂, -NH(C₁₋₆)alkyl,
 -N((C₁₋₆)alkyl)₂, -C(=O)NH₂, -C(=O)NH(C₁₋₆)alkyl and -C(=O)N((C₁₋₆)alkyl)₂;

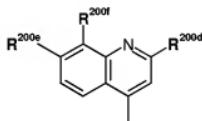
(iv) **Het** or **Het**-(C₁₋₆)alkyl-, each optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from (C₁₋₆)alkyl, -OH, -NH₂, -NH(C₁₋₆)alkyl,
 -N((C₁₋₆)alkyl)₂, -C(=O)NH₂, -C(=O)NH(C₁₋₆)alkyl and -C(=O)N((C₁₋₆)alkyl)₂;
 provided that B is not (C₁₋₁₀)alkyl unsubstituted, when R³ is B-O-C(=O)-;

Y is H;

R³ is (C₁₋₈)alkyl or (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl, each of which are optionally substituted with one or more substituents each independently selected from (C₁₋₆)alkyl, -OR³⁰, and -C(=O)OR³⁰, wherein R³⁰ is H, (C₁₋₆)alkyl, or aryl(C₁₋₆)alkyl-;

R² is -O-X-R²⁰, wherein X is (C₃)alkynyl and R²⁰ is (C₆ or C₁₀)aryl; or

R² is -O-R²⁰ wherein R²⁰ is

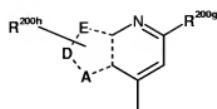


wherein

R^{200d} is -OR²⁰¹, wherein R²⁰¹ is (C₁₋₆)alkyl;

R^{200e} is H or -OR²⁰¹, wherein R²⁰¹ is (C₁₋₆)alkyl; and

R^{200f} is (C₁₋₆)alkyl, halogen, -SR²⁰¹, -SO₂R²⁰¹, or -OR²⁰¹, wherein R²⁰¹ is (C₁₋₆)alkyl optionally further substituted with (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl or phenyl; or R²⁰ is



wherein

one of **A**, **D**, and **E** represents a S atom and the other two of **A**, **D**, and **E** represent C atoms;

---- represents a single bond between a C atom and an S atom, and represents a single bond or a double bond between two C atoms; provided that each C atom is bonded by one double bond;

R^{200g} is H or -OR²⁰¹, wherein **R**²⁰¹ is (C₁₋₆)alkyl or (C₂₋₆)alkenyl; and

R^{200h} is one or two substituents each independently selected from H, cyano, (C₁₋₆)alkyl and -SO₂-(C₁₋₆)alkyl; wherein each **R**^{200h} is bonded to a C atom which would otherwise bear a hydrogen atom;

R¹ is (C₂₋₆)alkenyl or (C₂₋₆)alkyl;

n is 1;

m is 2; and

R⁴ and **R**⁶ are each independently selected from H, (C₁₋₆)alkyl, -O-(C₁₋₆)alkyl, (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl, (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl-(C₁₋₆)alkyl-, aryl and aryl-(C₁₋₆)alkyl-; wherein said (C₁₋₆)alkyl, (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl, (C₃₋₇)cycloalkyl-(C₁₋₆)alkyl-, aryl and aryl-(C₁₋₆)alkyl- are optionally substituted with one to three substituents independently selected from halogen, (C₁₋₆)alkyl, hydroxy, cyano, O-(C₁₋₆)alkyl, -COOH, and -COO(C₁₋₆)alkyl; or

R⁴ and **R**⁶ are linked, together with the nitrogen to which they are bonded, to form a 3- to 7-membered monocyclic saturated or unsaturated heterocycle, said heterocycle optionally containing from one to three further heteroatoms each independently selected from N, S and O, and said 3- to 7-membered monocyclic saturated or unsaturated heterocycle being optionally substituted with one to three substituents each independently selected from halogen, (C₁₋₆)alkyl, hydroxy, cyano, O-(C₁₋₆)alkyl, -NH₂, -NH(C₁₋₄)alkyl, -N((C₁₋₄)alkyl)₂, -COOH, and -COO(C₁₋₆)alkyl;

or a diastereomer thereof or a salt thereof.

18. **(Previously presented)** A pharmaceutical composition comprising an anti-hepatitis C virally effective amount of a compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier medium or auxiliary agent.

19. **(Original)** The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 18 additionally comprising a therapeutically effective amount of at least one other antiviral agent.

20. **(Withdrawn)** A method of treating or preventing a hepatitis C viral infection in a mammal comprising administering to the mammal an anti-hepatitis C virally effective amount of a compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or a pharmaceutical composition comprising said compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier medium or auxiliary agent.

21. – 22. **(Canceled)**

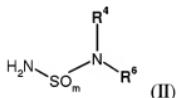
23. **(Withdrawn)** A method of inhibiting the replication of hepatitis C virus by exposing the virus to a hepatitis C viral NS3 protease inhibiting amount of the compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

24. **(Canceled)**

25. **(Previously Presented)** An article of manufacture comprising a composition effective to treat an HCV infection or to inhibit the NS3 protease of HCV; and packaging material comprising a label which indicates that the composition can be used to treat infection by the hepatitis C virus; wherein the composition comprises a compound according to claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier medium or auxiliary agent .

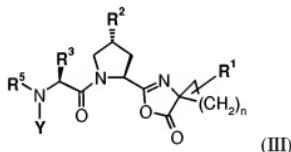
26. **(Previously Presented)** A process for the preparation of a compound according to claim 1, comprising:

a) reacting a compound of formula (II):



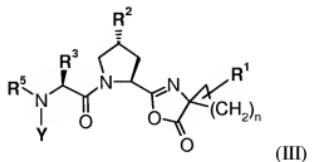
wherein **R**⁴, **R**⁶ and **m** are defined as in claim 1, with a strong base so as to form the corresponding amide anion and

b) reacting an azalactone of formula (III):



wherein **R¹**, **R²**, **R³**, **R⁵**, **Y** and **n** are defined as in claim 1, with the amide anion formed in step a).

27. (Original) An azalactone intermediate compound of formula (III):



wherein R¹, R², R³, R⁵, Y and n are defined as in claim 1.

28. (Canceled)